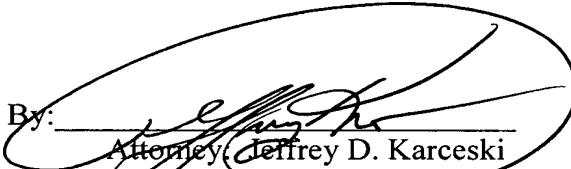


REMARKS

By this preliminary amendment, the specification has been amended to correct the reference to the foreign reference (JP 1999-167632) in paragraph [0006]. Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is requested along with an early action on the merits of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP

By:   
Attorney: Jeffrey D. Karceski  
Reg. No: 35,914  
Tel. No.: (703) 905-2000  
Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

Date: May 25, 2005  
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP  
P.O. Box 10500  
McLean, VA 22102  
Customer No. 00909